

January 9, 2009

Ms. Sara Bixby, Director

South Central Iowa Solid Waste Agency (SCISWA)

1736 Highway T17 South

Trace, Iowa 50256

Dear Ms. Bixby:

I am writing to notify you of new opportunity to utilize an environmental management system (EMS) for your organization's solid waste responsibilities. Under the EMS Designation Program established by House File 2570 a planning area or their designated representative (e.g. landfill service area) will be evaluated by the progress of their services rather than exclusively by Iowa's 25% and 50% solid waste diversion goals.

A planning area designated as an EMS will be exempt from Iowa solid waste reduction goals, be able to set their own performance goals and measurements and access financial and technical assistance to work towards establishing an EMS. Designation effectively results in a planning area paying the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) tonnage fee at \$2.10 a ton which is the equivalent of exceeding both the 25% diversion goal and statewide diversion average.

More importantly, an EMS is a powerful and replicable method that enables an organization to use continuous process improvement for managing environmental obligations and enhancing overall environmental performance. An EMS can help reduce operating costs by identifying waste reduction, energy conservation and water quality improvement opportunities. An EMS does not substitute for regulatory requirements but provides a structured framework for meeting regulatory obligations and identifying sustainable business practices.

A desire to work and improve or provide services in one of the following areas makes your organization eligible to be one of the initial planning areas to participate in the EMS Designation Program. These areas include: Yard Waste Management, Hazardous Household Waste Collection, Water Quality Improvement, Greenhouse Gas Reduction, Recycling Services or Environmental Education. It is anticipated six planning areas will be selected for the first program round with additional ongoing application opportunities.

The Solid Waste Alternatives Advisory Council as established by House File 2570 will be responsible for working with selected applicants and sincerely hopes your organization is interested in participating. We would very much welcome your questions or insights into this process. Enclosed, please find a copy of House File 2570, EMS information and contact information for the Council.

You will receive more information about this program early in 2009. If you would like to know more in the meantime, please contact Brian Tormey, IDNR at 515.281.8927 or any member of the Council.

Sincerely,

Iowa Solid Waste Advisory Council

List members below – Name and Organization